

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-14 EUR-25

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 021525Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3398

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 5673

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, EAID, PFOR, LI, US (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R., JR.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: (A) MONROVIA 5318 (B) MONROVIA 4709

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM USAID/PASA TECHNICAL ADVISERS TO GOL THAT SEVERAL GOL MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DRAFT PROJECT PAPERS WHICH PRESIDENT TOLBERT MAY PRESENT TO USG AS POTENTIAL TARGETS FOR OUR ASSISTANCE DURING HIS COMING VISIT TO U.S. THIS FIRST INTIMATION WE HAVE HAD THAT TOLBERT SEES VISIT AS ANYTHING MORE THAN PRIVATE ONE TO RECEIVE QTE FAMILY OF MAN AWARD UNQTE AND ADDRESS AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK. NO FURTHER OFFICIAL WORD ON U.S. VISIT PLANS SINCE THAT REPORTED REF. A, WHICH GAVE EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE AS OCTOBER 27-29.

2. TOLBERT RETURNED TO LIBERIA EVENING SEPTEMBER 30 AFTER STATE VISIT AND VACATION IN ROMANIA. HE MADE LENGTHY (OVER ONE HOUR) REPORT ON TRIP TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES GATHERED TO WELCOME HIM; EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF ROMANIA, EXPOUDNING ON ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME HE RECEIVED, AND CLAIMING THAT ROMANIAN -LIBERIAN TIES WILL MEAN MUCH FOR LIBERIA'S DEVELOPMENT.

AMONG PROJECTS HE CLAIMED WILL RESULT FROM VISIT ARE A MOTOR

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VEHICLE/AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR ASSEMBLY PLANT AND AN AUTOMOTIVE TIRE/RUBBER PRODUCTS FACTORY. ORDER TO MINISTRIES WENT OUT

FOLLOWING DAY.

3. IT LIKELY THAT TOLBERT SEES TRIP TO U.S. AS OPPORTUNITY FOLLOW UP ON SWEEPING REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE CONTAINED IN MIN FONAFFS QTE AIDE-MEMOIRE UNQTE DELIVERED TO EMBASSY ON AUGUST 14 AND REPORTED REF B. IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT, WITH U.S. VISIT COMING SO CLOSELY UPON HEELS OF SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO ROMANIA, HE HOPES AREOUSE OUR COMPETITIVE INSTINCTS WITH REGARD TO OUR QTE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP UNQTE AND RESURRECT OLD NON-ALIGNED PLOY OF PLAYING OFF EAST AGAINST WEST IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CONTEST.

4. WE SHALL ATTEMPT QUIETLY DISCOURAGE ANY EXPECTATION THAT TOLBERT VISIT TO U.S. SEEN AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN PRIVATE TRIP BY USG, AND POINT OUT THAT IT INLIKELY HE WOULD BE ABLE ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISUCSSIONS AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT APPROACH MATTER DIRECTLY AS QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL RAISE ASSISTANCE ISSUES DURING PRIVATE VISIT HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO US. IT POSSIBLE THAT MATTER MAY BE BROACHED BY FONMIN DENNIS AT UNGA WITH USUN OR BY FINMIN TOLBERT WHO NOW IN WASHINGTON FOR IMF/IBRD MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONROV05673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740279-0476
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741080/aaaacqcz.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) MONROVIA 5318 (B) MONROVIA 4709
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S VISIT TO THE U.S.
TAGS: OVIP, EAID, PFOR, LI, US, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005